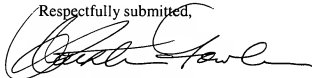


CONCLUSION

An early and favorable action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that any issues could be resolved, or if the prosecution of the application could be expedited, by a telephone conference, Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (206) 470-4847.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below.

Date: March 21, 2001

Signed: Elizabeth M. McCarthy
Elizabeth M. McCarthy